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Interview with Stanley L. “Stan” and Madeleine R. Freeman by Andrea L’Hommedieu

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee

Freeman, Madeleine R.

Freeman, Stanley L. “Stan”

Interviewer

L’Hommedieu, Andrea

Date

July 1, 2001

Place

Southport, Maine

ID Number

MOH 285

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Biographical Note

Madeleine (Richard) Freeman was born on February 10, 1926. She grew up in Pembroke, New Hampshire. She graduated from Pembroke Academy and Bates College. She was a member of the Brooks Quimby Debate Team. She was involved in founding the Maine League of Women Voters. She was the first woman elected to the town council of Orono. She was president of the Maine Municipal Association.

Stanley Leonard Freeman, Jr. grew up in West Bridgewater, Massachusetts. He graduated from Howard High School, Bates College, and Columbia Teacher’s College. He served in the Navy during World War II. He taught at the University of Maine in Orono. He was vice-chancellor of the University of Maine system.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: Bates College; 1954 Maine gubernatorial campaign; 1955-1956 Governor 1st term; environmental protection; Model Cities; Boys’ and Girls’ State; the

Great Depression; World War II; League of Women Voters; and legal services for the elderly.

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Transcript

Andrea L'Hommedieu: This is an interview with Madeleine Freeman and Stanley Freeman at their summer home in Southport, Maine. The date is July 11th, the year 2001. Madeleine, if you could start by giving me your full name, including your maiden name.

Madeleine Freeman: Madeleine Richard Freeman.

AL: And where were you born?

MF: I was born in Allenstown, New Hampshire.

AL: And the date?

MF: In 1926, February 10th.

AL: And where did you grow up?

MF: I grew up in the town across the river in Pembroke, New Hampshire. And that's where I lived until I went away to college.

AL: What was that town like?

MF: Small. I don't even know the population, but it would be a couple of thousand people. And I was brought up, I lived on a farm, dairy farm. It was farming, but also was somewhat industrial because it had two textile mills, one, it was in Pembroke and the other in Allenstown, and they were mills like the Lewiston mills only on a smaller scale, and really closely associated with the Manchester mills, which was a big textile community. And my grandparents on both sides came from Canada, and they came to work in the mills.

But my grandfather had come from a family of farmers in Canada and always wanted a farm, so in 1930 he bought a farm, kind of a rundown farm, and we moved there with my grandparents, my mother and father and two brothers and I moved with them to the farm and that's where I

really, that's where my memories come from, from that farm experience.

I went to Catholic school, elementary school, for about four, well, through fourth grade, and then, for transportation reasons and so forth, then transferred to public schools and ended up going to high school at Pembroke Academy, which is not an academy in the sense of a private school. It's like some of the Maine schools that have the academy name after them and really might have been private schools at one time but were now public schools. And it was a small school, my graduating class had, I believe, I'm trying to think, forty-two people in it, I think.

And my teachers, I had two Bates teachers. I had a history teacher and an English teacher, and those were my favorite subjects. And both teachers thought I should go to Bates College because the history teacher had started a debate club and I got involved in that, and he was, had been a debater at Bates. So he felt I should apply to Bates. We were a family where no one had ever been college, I would have been, I was the very, I mean the, in fact my family, my mother and father had not graduated from high school. They had gone through elementary school. And I was first high school graduate, and then the idea of going to college was quite foreign and there wasn't, there weren't the resources available, you know, to send someone to college. But I applied for a scholarship. The only college I applied to was Bates College because I had never planned to go to college, I was going to go and be a secretary or something like that. And I got admitted to Bates, and I didn't get a scholarship for the first semester, but if I maintained my grades I would be a scholarship student the second semester, and so I got scholarship help very shortly.

And that's where I came from. You know, not a typical Bates College student of today, but maybe more in that era there were a lot of people who came from backgrounds where there had not been much education in the family, first generation college students, and found Bates to be a very good place.

AL: Now tell me, growing up in New Hampshire, it was a mill town

MF: Yeah, that would be

AL: Would you characterize it like that?

MF: Yes, it was, a lot of Franco-Americans, it was a Franco-American community. Both Allenstown and Pembroke were, sort of just a river separating them. And Allenstown was more Catholic Franco-American. Pembroke had a combination, had more what we, you know, the typical English speaking WASP population, because some of the early settlers had settled on that side of the river and they were not the Franco-Americans. The Franco-Americans had come in and eventually moved into some of the properties that were available, and because there was one mill, the smaller mill was in Pembroke, there were still, there were people living close to the mill.

AL: Now your family, were they involved in the community at all? Or where did you get your sense of -?

MF: I don't really know. My family, they were very, there wasn't time to be involved in the community, in the sense that a farming family works year-round, you know, every day, milking the cows and doing all the things that need to be done. So people didn't have time to be truly involved in the community. My mother, grandmother, and my grandmother's sister lived together. She was a- and never married, and came from Canada and then lived with her sister. We, I think, I would guess if we had any sense of community it was really through the extended family. My mother had, came from a family of thirteen and, of whom eleven lived to adulthood, and were all around the communities, there were lots of cousins and so forth. And we were not very active in the church. My father had sort of broken away from the church and we did. But we lived outside the community, out of town in the rural area, and in those days, you know, not everybody drove. My mother didn't drive, my grandmother of course didn't drive. My grandfather didn't drive. But we didn't get a car until after we moved to the farm, and so the transportation was a little difficult. But the family interactions were very strong, and the sense of, there was a sense of taking care of each other, you know, taking care of the community.

I remember during the Depression, which was going on during that time, we were selling milk to people in the community and, selling milk, a milk route, we used to go out on milk route with my father, and a lot of people couldn't pay; they didn't have the money. And, but he left milk no matter whether they could pay or not, wherever there were children. And he would encourage them, especially if the women were having a hard time, like some of them had alcoholic husbands, or husbands that deserted them. I remember that we always left milk even if they didn't pay. They used to pay on a regular weekly basis, they'd leave the money on Saturday in the milk bottle, and some of them couldn't pay and he said, "Well, they have children and they need milk." And I'm sure he, sometimes some of them would leave twenty-five cents or a quarter which was- I mean fifty cents- and which was fine. But that sense of taking care of people in need was important to the family. I suppose because some of them had had such a hard time coming up themselves, you know, moving from poverty of Canada to the United States and making their way by working very, very hard and continuing to work hard. Work ethic was extremely strong.

The sense of my going away to college, my father didn't think that, he thought it was kind of foolish for a woman to go to college. I mean, what for? You're going to get married, you know, you don't need to earn a living, so why go to college? And it was hard to, I wanted to go. Of course my father liked books and liked learning; he read an awful lot, and so I think he knew where I was coming from, because I'd been a very good student and had, you know, valedictorian of the class and all that kind of stuff. So he was proud of that, and the fact that my teachers wanted me to go to college made him proud, so he was convinced that maybe I should go. My mother was convinced I'd be so homesick I'd only last a week, because she, herself, the idea of moving and going away by yourself, when she was so tied up to that extended family, she couldn't conceive of it. And I think she almost never forgave me for not getting homesick. She thought I had forsaken everyone. But I loved it; I wasn't homesick at all. I was having a wonderful time.

And I thought Bates was a big place. People said, "Oh, you're going to a small college," which it was, eight hundred students or whatever. And, but for me, that's as big as I, I think I would have been lost in an urban setting or anything like that because I'd never been away from home except

to go to Boston a couple of times, to the ball game. That was one treat every summer. So anyway, that's basically what it is, but you may have some questions you want to ask about that.

AL: I had questions. In terms of politics, did you have a sense of political activity in the town where you grew up, was there -?

MF: My father had run for selectman, but didn't get elected. He was kind of a little bit of a maverick; my father was a very independent person and very critical of the establishment, whatever it was. It didn't matter whether it was, I don't think his politics were defined by party or anything like that. He was sort of anti anyone who tried to keep you from doing what you wanted to do. Rules and regulations that were sort of oppressive or anything like that. And I think he thought the little guy always got the short end of the stick. And so that's what he was. He did end up being a water commissioner on the Water District, but that was after I went away to college.

AL: But it does sound like he had strong opinions and beliefs.

MF: Oh, yes, some of them were quite crazy, but they were charming, you know. He and I argued a lot, and I would say, especially when I'd be coming home from college I'd say, "I am not going to fight with my father." But he would egg me right on so that I would end up arguing with him, and confronting him, and we'd have, it was al-, it was mostly I guess intellectual, verbal, you know, it wasn't, it was just that we just couldn't agree. He had, his, I felt he couldn't see the big picture because his education was limited to, but he had strong ideas. And I had some of the same ideas, but the way of approaching the problem was what got us in conflict.

AL: Now why don't we go to you, Stanley, and if you could state your full name, and where and when you were born?

Stanley Freeman: Okay, I'm Stanley Leonard Freeman, Jr. My father's name obviously was Stanley L. Freeman. I'm still using the junior even though he's been gone for a long time. I was born literally in a hospital in Brockton, Massachusetts but the family, my mother and father's home, where I lived, was in West Bridgewater, which is, today it would be called a suburb of Brockton, I guess. Brockton was, at that time, a mill town, a shoe town primarily, and West Bridgewater had probably three thousand people, many of whom worked in Brockton, but there are also a lot of farms in West Bridgewater, and there was a farm across the street from our house and a chicken, poultry farm, egg farm, next door on the same side of the street, so I grew up in a farm neighborhood even though I wasn't literally on a farm.

My father had graduated from what was then called Massachusetts Agricultural College, it's now the University of Massachusetts, where he majored in animal husbandry. And his lifetime ambition was to be a farmer, but he never had the farm. He went to work when he graduated for the Extension Service in Massachusetts, and he was a county agent, and he worked for, after some years, I don't know how long it was, in that job, and he got a job with a grain manufacturing company which had a mill in the next town. And he was what they called a service man, not a salesman. He would go visit farms, and the idea was the farmer should not be allowed to think the problem on his farm with his chickens or his cows was the feed, so my

father went out and, with his background in animal husbandry, was able to not be a vet but determine pretty much what the chicken flock or the pigs or the cows, and advise them on feed to improve the situation or whatever. So, I mention that detail because when, leaping ahead, when I met a farmer's daughter, it was a very comfortable kind of relationship because I had found the farm my father never had.

MF: Thank you, all the cows and the manure and everything else. But your father did work in the city, later.

SF: Well, later on, when I was I guess maybe at the end of elementary school, he was transferred to the Boston office of the grain company, so all through my high school years he commuted on the train to Boston every day. My mother was a Normal School graduate, Framingham Normal School, which meant three years; it wasn't a four-year institution at the time she graduated. And she majored in Home Economics. She also went to work for the 4-H headquarters in Massachusetts, in Amherst, and that's where she and my father met. They met actually -

MF: He was still in college.

SF: He was still in college when they met. She was working with an office in Amherst, near the college. And the story I recall is that he was taking tickets at a basketball game and she came in and he took her ticket and they went from there, so that's the background. And as you know, my mother's papers, correspondence, are at Bates now, and that gives you a little sense of what her background was, because as a home economist she coached Rachel Carson on how to be a homemaker, child rearer, and caretaker of an elderly parent, mother. So, she was applying her professional skills, that relationship, as well as the personal relationship.

MF: Your mother did work a lot in the community, though, during the war, she was, worked for the, if I recall, the Red Cross. And she was-

SF: Red Cross. You know, after marriage, women didn't work outside of the home, at least in our strata of society, which was lower middle class, I guess, but it was above the working class. So she was not obviously going to work in the shoe factory, but she also wasn't going to be a white-collar worker. So she didn't ever have employment after they were married, but she had lots of community service kinds of things. And in terms of activism in the community, I don't recall my, either of my folks being particularly politically active, or social service active, except my mother's involvement with things like the Red Cross and the Women's Club and that sort of thing.

I went to a public high school, but it had a private name; it was called Howard High School, but it was a public school. There was a Howard Seminary in town, which was a private girl's school. And the old three story brick building which had been the original Howard Seminary was abandoned, and they built some new facilities for the girl's school, so the town of West Bridgewater took it over as the high school. I played on the basketball team. It was interesting that we had a home court advantage, because our basketball court was in the basement of this three-story brick building, and it was such a small court and the ceiling was just above the

backboards, that no visiting team could make as many baskets as we could.

MF: That's known as a domed facility.

SF: Yeah, right. So, I had numerous teachers through my four years, but in my senior year my English teacher was a Bates graduate.

AL: You too.

SF: And he determined that I should go to Bates College. My folks had planned, as far as I know forever, that I would go to college.

MF: Well you were an only child.

SF: I was an only child. Still am an only child.

AL: And you came from a family of -?

MF: I have two brothers.

SF: So, there wasn't much discussion in the family about which college I was going to go to, but college was in the plan. So it got to be senior year and you had to start making some plans and some decisions, and I took the SAT, and I applied to Massachusetts State College, it was called then, it hadn't become U Mass, and that was sort of following my father's footsteps automatically. I didn't, I'd been to Amherst to visit with them several times, so I knew the campus but I didn't have any urge to go to U Mass, or Mass State. So in the middle of the winter my English teacher started telling me I should go to Bates. And I think it was the April vacation, it could have been the February vacation, one of the vacations, he took me to Lewiston to make a campus visit. And I was quite impressed, so I came home and I filled out the application forms and was accepted at Bates for a full tuition scholarship, which in those days was twelve hundred dollars for four years. Three hundred dollars a year was the tuition.

AL: And what was the teacher's name, do you recall?

SF: Roger Jones.

AL: And do you remember who your teachers -?

MF: David Jennings and, that was the history teacher, and the woman, I don't recall now. If I do I'll insert it, but he was more involved in getting me there because of the debating. But she, I liked her very much, and the two of them did get together about me. And, but she was not the one who did the urging, and her name doesn't stay in my mind right this minute, but she was a member of the class of '36, I do remember that.

AL: So she was Muskie's class, Senator Muskie's class.

MF: She would have been, she was, both of them were, David Jennings was a first year teacher back, I mean, at start, he didn't come until I was a junior in high school, I think. Yeah, I think he graduated from Bates in '42, '41 maybe, and she had graduated earlier. And she had taught one other place before she came to Pembroke Academy. So they were young teachers, both of them. And he was impressed, I guess, with, well, I did very well on tests and things and I wrote papers and stuff, but the debating he thought was the key of what would get me in there. And she thought I could write well, and that was I guess important to getting into college in those days. I read a lot of books, too.

AL: Do you have recollections of the Depression years when you were growing up?

SF: Yeah, they were not, for our family they were not difficult because my father had a job, first with the county, Plymouth County extension agent, and then with the grain company. And although everybody else was, around us, was having real bad experiences with being laid off from the shoe factories, it didn't touch us directly. But I was very conscious of the tenuousness of life, economic life, at that time. And, I guess, was always somewhat apprehensive that my father would lose a job, because everybody else's father was losing their jobs around us.

AL: So you heard about it and understood it.

SF: Oh yeah, yeah, and you could see it in bread lines in Brockton, not West Bridgewater, soup kitchens, the whole works.

MF: But the, one of the things that, my grandfather worked in the mills and he was a loom fixer, which was one of the top jobs. And he had done well because he also decided he needed a second job so he was a barber on the side. And he earned enough money so that he was able to buy this farm. And the reason he, one of the reasons he bought the farm because he always wanted one. Also he said, "If you're on a farm, you'll never starve." And he was worried about the family and the fact that he might lose his job, because there were strikes, there were all kinds of things happening and people being laid off. And his idea was, "As a family, let's concentrate on farming and then you'll always have stuff to eat, and you'll probably have stuff to sell, even if you have to sell at a very low price, and so you'll never starve." That was his basic, that was his fear.

Because I think back in Canada there had been, you know, they were poor people who had very little land, they couldn't subdivide it for all the children, there were six I think in his family, and so they couldn't leave it to everyone so everyone had to leave to find something else. And he walked from Canada to New Hampshire with two other men, taking odd jobs along the way. That was from near Quebec, up above Quebec, and finally settled down, then went back and got his woman friend, my grandmother, who he couldn't marry until he had money. So he went back to get her after he'd earned enough money to buy a train fare for both of them. But that was in the 1880s and '90s, you see, so they were, you know, they -

SF: But he didn't have a farm then, he was just working in the mills.

MF: He didn't have a farm, he was working, he had to work in the mills. And he wanted the

farm to provide him, if the Depression got worse or anything happened, we could still eat.

AL: I did several interviews in Aroostook County, and they all told similar things, because they're all potato farms and you can get a long way on potatoes, they say.

MF: The Irish managed very well, I mean not so well over the years but it was all they had. But we had dairy cows and you had milk, and you had land for gardening and stuff.

SF: And my father's job security was because he was in the animal feed business because the animals had to eat, and so (*unintelligible phrase*), you know, all the other manufacturing things collapsed.

AL: Now you both graduated in '47 from Bates?

MF: Well that's our year. That's, started in the same year, but because -

SF: We started in the class of '43.

MF: Well, yeah. We started in '43.

SF: In '43. But the semester didn't begin, because of the war, the semester didn't begin until first of November or way in October.

MF: October twenty-something.

SF: In those days.

AL: That's what I was going to ask you about. You were finishing high school and entering college -

SF: Right in the middle of the war.

AL: - during war time. What was that like, do you have a perspective on it as being there and how different it is from what life is like when we're not at war?

MF: Well -

SF: Well, the war began in December of '41, so by June of '43 when we graduated from high school it was the way of life, so. I mean we had blackouts even in our part of eastern Massachusetts, we weren't on the coast but we still had blackouts.

MF: And New Hampshire wasn't on the coast either and we had blackouts.

SF: And transportation was difficult because gasoline was rationed, food was rationed of all kinds. My mother spent a lot of time figuring out how to use the ration coupons for meat and butter and things like that. But I don't recall that it made any difference to schooling as such, I

mean classes were met just the same and there were teachers there. I suppose some teachers maybe had been drafted, but nobody that I particularly related to. And I guess Roger Jones probably was ineligible for the draft, from the Bates, because I think his class was maybe '38 or somewhere in the mid to late thirties, and he was a very tall guy, he was about six-four I think, and could possibly have had some disability that kept him out of the Army. So, except for the oddball calendar, I don't think the war affected our starting college in any particular way.

MF: It's- I was thinking about high school, I had for example, and this carried on into college, too, I had, in one year I had three math teachers in algebra because the men kept going into the service. And I, to this day, I say that's why I don't understand algebra very well. But it may not be the reason, but it's a good excuse, because, you know, it was very confusing. Because one would come, and then would be there for a couple of months then go, and then another one would come, and finally at the end of the year, the principal came in and taught us the last couple of months of math, you know, because they couldn't get anyone. And, finally the next year they did get an older woman.

SF: That's right, one of our teachers left and the principal came in and finished that year in geometry.

MF: Yeah, see, it was the math, the men were in math, you see, the math courses. And then that happened at Bates. In psychology we had a couple of different people in our freshman year who came and then went, and then we got somebody else. Then we had the wife of somebody came in to teach a course, although she wasn't, hadn't been teaching for a long time, she was the wife of another professor, came in to teach a course. I don't remember what it was, I think it was one of the education courses. And, so that there was this, during that period, a sort of inconsistent perhaps teaching that was going on. And---, a couple of real impacts.

SF: But the real impact of wartime was the presence of the Navy V-12 unit at Bates during that time. So when we started in the fall of '43, I was one of thirteen men in the freshman class, civilians.

MF: Either they were too young to go into the service yet, or already 4-F. And he was one of the too young ones.

SF: So we were an island of civilian men surrounded by a sea of navy blue, and we didn't have a chance with the girls to start with.

MF: Well, it was a, those years, see the Navy was not as involved in, they admitted more women to compensate for the fact that there were no men, you know, there was the Navy had its, there was the Navy. And then there were more women in the class than there were men in the actual class, non-Navy, which was great for women, because the women became really the leaders on campus during that period. The Navy did not have the Bates mission, they weren't really, they were there for a short period of time to get training, they'd go, they didn't -

SF: They weren't necessarily there for four years.

MF: No, and they didn't graduate from Bates. They got their degrees from Bowdoin or Dartmouth or whatever, using the Bates courses as part of that. A few of them did graduate from Bates, but there were some that had originally come to Bates, in the first place, as students, and then got into the service and went into the V-12 and stayed at Bates. But there were not many who really integrated into the college. So there was, there was women's student government and there was men's student government. Everything was divided. There were men's dorms and women's dorms and so forth. The Navy had a lot of the dorms and then the men, the civilian men, had a few, and the women had the majority of the dormitory space, of the ones who were going to go through to four years at Bates. And so the women, I think really were, the majority, therefore had a lot of things that were going on that women took on a leadership role. And I think it was, it was not feminism as we know it by any means, but women -

SF: Hadn't been invented yet.

MF: Yeah, hadn't been invented, and we did not invent it. But we did feel important, very important, on campus. And-

SF: Tell her about one of the crusades that you led as women's student government president.

MF: Which one?

SF: Smoking.

MF: Oh, yeah, the reverse -

SF: Now they've had to undo the whole thing.

MF: Well, the men, this was inequities, the men were allowed to smoke in the dorms. In fact, they were allowed to smoke in their rooms. The women could only smoke in one place on campus, and that, a women's union, which was, what street was it on?

AL: Frye Street?

MF: Frye Street Women's Union, and so the women who smoked all had to come after class, or after dinner, whatever, to that small, butt room they called it, which was awful. I mean, they must, some of them must have gotten lung cancer right there. And I think anybody who was around there. But the women felt that was very unfair. Why were the men allowed to smoke in the dorms, and the women couldn't? They had to walk in the snow and everything else just to have a cigarette. So they petitioned the student government and, to change the blue book, the rules, and then I think we actually had a referendum and it came out in favor of women smoking in the dorms. I was president of student government, that women's student government, at the time. I was not a smoker, but I thought it was a fair enough thing. So I had to present that to the dean of women, and she gave us the, the women lived in the wooden dorms, and therefore if you had smoking in the wooden dorms, the college would have to change its insurance, I mean the liability for fire insurance would be so much higher. But, finally there was a compromise made that you could only smoke in the rec-, in one room, or in the reception area, there'd be one room

set aside for those who smoked, who could go in there in each dormitory, so that women did no longer, I mean, you know, it was controlled. So that was the compromise, and I remember fighting very hard for it. And now, of course, what you really did was make people sick. And now I'm sure there have been on some campuses probably people fighting to not have smoking in dorms, to have smoke free dorms and so oh, just the opposite side of the coin. But what you don't know doesn't hurt you, I guess. Or you think it doesn't.

AL: Now when you were, late in high school and coming into college and the war was starting and going on, where did you get your information sources? Was it newspapers, radio, did communities and families talk about the war in your households?

SF: Primarily radio.

MF: Yeah, of course.

SF: For up-to-the-minute news. H. B. Calton Bolen, and Edward R. Murrow.

MF: But as students -

SF: Broadcasting from Europe.

MF: As students, I don't think we sat by the radio and paid attention to the details of the war. We all had family at war; I had uncles primarily. Because we were farmers, my, well my brothers, we, I was the oldest, my brothers were younger than I, and one brother had had polio so he was excluded. I mean, he wasn't completely crippled but he did have, his leg, you know, had been affected and so he wasn't in. And the other brother was younger, so he never had to go in. But they would have been excluded anyway because the farmers had, were, it was a 2-something or other, you know, as long as they worked on the farm they didn't have to go into the war because they were staying home to, for the, so they, nobody in my immediate, but my mother's brothers all, practically all of them went to war, and you worried about them.

And we found out, you got all kinds of misinformation as well as information because a lot of it was censored and you didn't really know what was going on. But if you majored, like I was majoring in history, history and government, so I probably got more forced exposure to the news of what was going on because we would talk about it in class and compared it to other periods in history and so on. And so I think we were- and debating also had some elements of current news. I don't remember what the topics were then in those days, but there was, you know, more so than the science people and sciences, or whatever, who didn't really get any of that exposure in class. I got the exposure in class. I knew very early on that I wanted to major in history and minor in English, which is what I did, history and government combined, minor in English. I also had a minor in Sociology, I think I had enough courses for a minor in sociology.

But that, the other thing about, going on the theme of the women, there were a lot of women debaters, and you had to count on the women debaters, Brooks Quimby did, because he didn't have enough men. There were a few of the B-12ers who were interested in debating, but not many. So the women had an opportunity to do a lot of debating. I was in on an international

debate where some men from Cambridge, in England came to Bates and we had a debate on, this was at the, my senior year -

SF: This was after the war.

MF: Resolve- after the war- resolve that the British Empire should be dissolved. And they were in the negative and we were in the affirmative, and it wasn't a debate where there was, it was mostly a show debate, it wasn't an actual winner or loser. But it was an interesting topic at the time. And my senior thesis had been on the race problem in South Africa, so I was into the British Empire thing, I was doing quite a bit of British history. So Jane [Webber] Glauz and I represented Bates. And then one other Bates debating incident on the theme of women, Brooks decided that, there was a Dart-, the regional, Eastern regional debate tournament was going on at Dartmouth, and he decided that he would send three women, four women, two teams, four women, no men. And there was a fellow who had come back from the war who was helping Brooks as an assistant in debating, and he had him drive us to Dartmouth -

AL: Okay. I'm sorry, let me stop right there and let me flip the tape over.

End of Side A, Tape One
Side B, Tape Two

AL: We are now on Side B of Tape One of the interview with Madeleine and Stanley Freeman.

MF: So four women drove from Bates to Dartmouth, and we arrived and there was a sense of shock when we got there. There were no other women in the tournament, just us four, the rest were all men. There was Cornell, West Point in their uniforms, Dartmouth, I don't remember who they all were, but Ivy League schools as well as, I think there might have been a couple of universities, but it was the Eastern regional tournament. And, they didn't know what to do with us, so they put us up in the infirmary for the night, because they had no room for us. And then-

SF: With the nurses (*unintelligible phrase*).

MF: With the nurse as chaperone, the nurse was on, there was a nurse that was on duty, so they put us up in these hospital beds in the infirmary, four of us, in a ward, and with a nurse who was there until we went to bed and kept us safe. And then we, the next morning we debated. Well, the Bowdoin boys and the Dartmouth boys and some others, not the West Pointers, had apparently had a real fun night, you know, they were bleary eyed when they got to the debate, because they, of course weren't allowed to even participate. I don't think they ever fed us with them, I think we got meals taken to us like we had been ill for a long time. I just don't remember any part of anything except being in a bed in an infirmary. So the next morning we debated, and I don't remember, it had to do with international trade I think, I don't really remember the topic. It was an international question and it was not an easy one, and the affirmative side was particularly difficult, and I was on the affirmative side. And my teammate and I lost our debate, but that was the only debate we lost. And we, West Point, or Cornell, I forget which, was the winner of the tournament, but Bates came in second. And, but that was an experience that could

never be replicated today, I mean that was of its time. And Brooks Quimby thought it was a riot, he really thought he was screwing them up, and he almost did.

AL: So he had a sense of humor.

MF: Yeah, yeah, and I thought he was throwing us to the wolves when we got there, you know, I mean literally, in every sense of the word wolf. And maybe we were saved by the nurse, I don't know.

AL: Well tell me your impressions of Brooks Quimby.

MF: Well, one of a kind. A very dynamic man who was very inspiring, very knowledgeable, and would have made a wonderful politician because he could argue on any side and he could change in a minute from one, you know, thing, from one positive statement to another one, just as strong. And that's what he was trying to teach us. What he really was training I think, a lot of the people who took debating were people who were going to be lawyers. A lot of the fellows who ended up going to law school were debaters, they, that was sort of a kind of training. And he really made you work very hard and was very critical, and didn't hesitate to tell you that your case was full of holes, and you were full of it, and you had to start over. And he'd destroy it, you know, you'd do a one-on-one with him and he'd destroy it. And you, I found that very difficult, because I had never had that kind of experience before. I mean, I always thought I was, whatever I did I mostly never got destroyed, I mean people might criticize it but it was always very, it was good, it could be better, or something like that.

But, and people were very loyal to him, they would do almost anything he asked them to do, if they stuck with it. Now, if you didn't stick with it, then you were out of it and then, you know, you either stuck with it and did anything he wanted you to do, or you dropped out, because it took a lot of time. He also taught other things besides debating, he taught radio, I took a radio course from him. He taught rhetoric. I didn't, I was trying to think, I think I just did the debating and maybe one other course with him. He always invited students to his home for a picnic every, the debaters, every year, and we had a good time. There was a real close group of Brooks Quimby people. And there were stars, and some of them were much better than others, but he gave everybody a chance, and I think never put you, well he wanted to win, so he certainly didn't put you in a position where you'd be a loser. I mean, some of the tougher debates he gave to the better people.

And then we had, and we also did some work, we'd judge debates at the high schools, you know, when they did tournaments he'd send his people out there to judge debates so that you got to know a little bit more about the technicalities of it and felt important in, you know, playing the Brooks Quimby role in reverse. So, and I think that maybe there were people who didn't like him at all, you know, who were not, I mean, there might have been some. I don't know, there might have been, I don't know what the campus politics were about, among the professors and so on, in relationship to Brooks Quimby, because he was an institution within an institution and that always creates some turf problems I think. I don't know, but.

AL: Did he, did you get a sense that he reached out to the Lewiston community at all, was he -

?

MF: He, I think he did to some degree because he was interested in debaters, and if there were some good kids in, we went. Auburn had a good debating program, and, if there were some good debaters there, I think he would try to get the teacher or the debate coach to encourage them to come to Bates. But I think, I think it was, I don't know if he, you know, I don't know the rest about, of his life, but I know that he would reach out anywhere where there was a debater that he thought could be useful to Bates, the Bates team, because he was, you know, wanted them to be the best in the world, if possible. Tried to help raise money to send people to, abroad to debates. And so anyway, it was a tradition, it had been going on for, it wasn't a new thing when I came along because there were, you know, the Muskies and the Frank Coffins and a lot of others who had been ahead of us who had been great debaters. So I don't know when the Brooks, when Brooks Quimby came to Bates, I don't really know.

AL: Well, did you have a sense of Frank Coffin and Ed Muskie from being a debater? Did Brooks Quimby use them as an example at that point? Were they known yet?

MF: Oh yeah, yeah, and Vincent McKusick. Yeah, they were, you know, they were these kind of stars, and their pictures, he always had a rogues gallery of all the debates and then he'd point out, and then it's these people. I think he was very proud of these people as they moved forward in their own careers. And I think politicians, I'm sure he thought were worthy of, you know, that somehow he had helped to train them. I'm sure he felt that way, that they were making their way because he had inspired them.

AL: Well yeah, in terms of that and in his teaching, and you said he was very critical but also inspiring, and you described a little bit how he could talk on one side of it and very smoothly switch to the other side and still be convincing. How- were there terms he used when he was teaching you, what was he trying to teach you, what was the core of it, do you have recollections of that, was there -?

MF: I don't know, I can't remember terms. I don't, I haven't done, you know, debating was not my life after Bates and I don't remember what the terminology would have been. But what he was trying to teach you, I think, to think clearly.

SF: On your feet.

MF: On your feet.

AL: On your feet.

MF: And to always be prepared. In other words, you had to be able to switch, if you had anticipated a certain kind of argument from the other side and they kind of wiped out your argument, you had to be able to switch to something else, you know, had to have alternative arguments, or alternative strategies, in order to counteract right there, you know, you couldn't just, you couldn't do the George Bush thing and read off -

SF: Even George Bush does it.

MF: Off the machine. You had to be able to respond and not get flustered. I mean, tried to teach you poise. Also, clear thinking, good preparation, having the facts, doing your research. If you did that, you could almost talk about anything and do a good job. And I used to worry, I'd say, "Well I don't really believe in this particular argument," and he'd say, "That doesn't matter, you know, it's still an argument worth making and testing it against another argument, on the other side." And I think if you really felt that you were going to fall flat on your face because your heart wasn't in it at all, he probably would not assign it to you to really, I mean he might make you do it, but he wouldn't ask you to go out there and, unless he was pretty sure that you were going to be able to do it without, you know, falling apart because you really couldn't follow through.

AL: Did you have any contact with Brooks Quimby?

SF: No, I didn't take a course with him. I obviously knew who he was, what he was, but I didn't take a course with him.

MF: I really seriously thought of dropping out of debating because it took so much time when you got involved in a particular debate, you know. You had to put some other things aside and, but I think I kind of stuck it out because I didn't want to let him down.

AL: Yeah. Now in his mentioning of Frank Coffin and Vincent McKusick and Ed Muskie, did he characterize them as to what their strengths were in debating, or did he just sort have them there as motivational?

MF: What I got out of it, I don't know if, what I got out of it, I don't remember how he presented them, but what I got out of it was that these people had done what he wanted us to do, which was to be able to think straight, stand up on your feet, and make, and also good presentation, I mean he wanted you to, I mean you had to be able to kind of project your voi-, I mean your voice, your body language, everything, and be persuasive. They were persuasive, they were good. I had a sense they were awful smart people, that's what I got out of it, they were very, very smart and could present themselves well, and could present their arguments.

SF: Did they have a public reputation by that time, the time we were in college?

MF: Vincent McKusick did. He was, well he wasn't a judge, I mean, I don't know, but Vincent McKusick was a, I don't know, there was something about Vincent McKusick that all kinds of classes used him as an example.

SF: They'd all gone to law school after Bates, and they hadn't been at work for very many years.

MF: Yeah, they'd gone to law school. No, but they were, they were, but it didn't matter. He thought, they were there and they were great debaters. And Frank Coffin, I don't think had gone on into anything. Muskie was a sta-

SF: He was in the legislature, but I don't know when that was.

AL: In '46, '46 is when he started with the legislature.

MF: So okay, so he was on his way, he already was making a name for himself. But he was, there was something about Muskie because of his, I remember, his size, the way he, his stature, you know, he stood out -

SF: (*Unintelligible word*).

MF: (*Unintelligible word*), he stood out. And we'd talk about, we'd talk about some teams that had done some other, you know, some other work and, for him in debating, and these were the people, this was a great team that won, you know, you saw what they'd won and so on, and these were the stars. Even though they hadn't achieved in their careers the stature that they had eventually achieved. They were promising; they were the ones.

And Vincent McKusick, I remember sitting in an English class with Berkelman my freshman year, and he was one for, you had, he was giving us a lecture on how to learn and how to study and all kinds of things, and how to achieve. And he talked about Vincent McKusick, he said, who sat in that very seat right there and got all A's, I think he got four point, straight four point all the way through college, and he said, you know, one of the most brilliant students I ever had.

And there was this little girl sitting there, and she flunked out the first semester. And I, oh, I can still see her. And we all kind of cringed and thought, "Oh my Lord," you know, and, "That's the hot seat." And she flunked out, she didn't come back after the first semester, so he hadn't picked the right person to, he had picked the right to intimidate I guess. But that's the first time I heard about Vincent McKusick, and I remember the name because he made such a point of it.

AL: Who were other professors that you had that leave a distinct memory for you?

SF: Can I go back to the wartime -

AL: Oh yes, yes.

SF: - conditions, because I had two -

MF: I'm sorry, I carried on as I always do.

SF: (*unintelligible phrase*) anyway, you asked, how did we get our news. And I said radio mostly, we didn't read newspapers in those days very much. But I think we did, or at least I had the radio on and I, the reason I emphasize that is, I was sitting at my desk on the fourth floor of Roger Bill on June 6th, 1944, studying for finals. And I had the radio on, and Eisenhower came on the radio announcing the D-Day invasion. So that's how I learned about that part of the war. And here I was still a civilian and not even in the service yet.

MF: But you did go in the service.

SF: I went in the next year. The other thing is war conditions were not war really. I don't know if you've had other people, other men, tell you that during that period when the V-12 was on campus, they took over what had, what was called the men's commons, for their mess hall. And all civilian men had to eat off campus. And we ate down, I don't remember the names of the street, but two blocks down -

MF: Mrs. Vaillancourt.

SF: Not College, College Street, right? Two blocks down College Street but over towards the high school a couple of blocks, too. A boarding home run by Mrs. Vaillancourt, well I don't even know if it was a home, but anyway she served three meals a day to about fifty, I'm guessing, civilians who walked down those two blocks at mealtime every day, and we had the most magnificent French Canadian home, family service, home style cooking. It was just wonderful

AL: Oh, great. Well, you didn't miss out too much in having-.

SF: No, so I don't know if anybody else has mentioned that, and if there are any records, the bursar's office must have records of paying Mrs. Vaillancourt for her services (*unintelligible phrase*) somehow in the archives.

MF: That went on for, how many years, two years? Two years or, when you came -

SF: Well, when I came back the V-12 was gone, and they were back to commons, so it was '4-, I don't know when it began, might have begun in '42.

MF: The V-12 came the summer we started.

SF: They were brand new then?

MF: Yup.

SF: Okay, so that was '43 and '44, the civilians were fed great French Canadian meals.

MF: They had come in the summer and we started in September, or October.

AL: That's great.

SF: As far as professors, I started off, I had no idea what I was going to major in so I, my father was a businessman, so I said economics, to name something. I took economics 101 with Professor Carroll, and by the middle of the semester I knew that was not for me. Bless his heart, he was utterly boring. He may have been a great economist but he couldn't make it interesting. So I, by the end of that first semester, I no longer was identifying myself as an Economics major. I was a Sociology major, which was, you know, still in the social science field. But Professor Myhrman, Anders Myhrman, was my Brooks Quimby. Entirely different personality. So warm

and so dedicated, and of course he had a Swedish accent, I guess it was Swedish or Norwegian, Myhrman, I'm not sure what it was. And I, he just, he never got up and walked around the room or anything, he just sat at a table at the front of the classroom and lectured, but his lectures were, it was talking, it wasn't teaching . . . and stories about poor people.

MF: Races.

SF: Yeah, you know, so I fell in love with Sociology in his first course, and then became a Sociology major and worked all the way through. And his wife, who I think was a student originally, Mildred Myhrman, she, again because of the war, she was teaching some courses, and she was not as, she wasn't a star, she was another member of the department, I guess. But when I came back from the service my senior year, I was an assistant, student assistant, to Mrs. Myhrman in a course called "Marriage and the Family" and the course was populated by all these married G.I.s who had come back and were taking courses.

MF: Living at Sampsonville.

SF: And here I was, an unmarried sort of G.I., but with very little worldly experience, and I'm reading all these exams and giving out grades for answers to "Marriage and the Family" to these married men. It was weird.

MF: Well I, as I said, Brooks Quimby was my, not necessarily my mentor, he was a specialized mentor, but in the history department I worked closely with Dr. Hovey, Amos Hovey. He taught British history, and I was his assistant my senior year. Got twenty-five dollars a semester for doing that, and I thought that was pretty good spending money. And, you know, did the same thing, correct-, again, correcting papers from G.I.s who had been in Europe, who'd been in the British Empire, I mean they were five years older than I was because they were the ones who had started, you know, at the beginning of the war, had gone all the way through and had originally been in the class of '42 or '43, but came back to finish up. And I, they knew more about geography and history and the, you know, the facts of that life than I ever did. But I followed the textbook and said, "Oh, they didn't put down number four," so I gave them B+.

So it was a different world, and we worked, you know, we got a very good education without any of the things that today are I mean, are considered a must. I mean, we were in small kind of stuffy, crummy classrooms, you know, the buildings had not been, they were kept clean, that was about it, that's what they did. And the professors were, there were not that many stars on campus, I mean, known worldwide or anything like that. They were just good, hardworking people. A lot of them were older because they were the ones who hadn't gone in the service, because they were too old. They knew their world, their subject -

SF: Tell her about Flechtheim's exam.

MF: Well, I don't know where he came from. He hadn't been there very long, Ossip Flechtheim came as an assistant professor or an instructor. He was a -

SF: (*Unintelligible word*).

MF: He was a refugee from somewhere, from abroad, and had a Ph.D. and all the things, but it was, his style was foreign because he was, he had taught I'm sure in universities abroad, and he had a little problem, didn't have a real problem with the language, except his accent was strong, and I think he was German, and he had, I took a, he taught government and I took a course in comparative governments, I think, and he was, we had an exam after the first semester and we took the exam, I looked at it, and I thought, "Gosh, I don't really know much about this." Well, it was fairly familiar but, I mean the terminology was familiar, but I thought we didn't really cover this particularly in class. And so we all took the exam anyway, you know, nobody complained. Afterward -

SF: And these were all essay exams, (*unintelligible phrase*).

MF: Yeah, essay exams, compare this to that and so on. And, what was his first name, Malatesta? Who was very smart, very bright? Well -

SF: Dick.

MF: Dick Malatesta, and he was a very good student.

SF: He was a four-point student.

MF: Yeah. And at the end of the exam I went up to him and turned it in, I said, "How did you do on that?" He said, "I don't know," he said, "I just, I've answered the questions." I said, "Well so did I and, but it was tough," and, I said, "Somehow we hadn't covered." He said, well, we'd read some of that in some of the material outside the classroom, you know, some of the references, but it wasn't, it was pretty bad. So we found out afterward he'd given us the wrong exam, he'd given us the exam for the second semester, which is what -

AL: Oh God, so of course (*unintelligible phrase*) small bit.

MF: And we were tested on, and, but they never, they never had us take another exam, they gave us the grades that we got. I got an A. So did Dick. But they must have somehow decided that the best ones would get an A regardless of whether they did very well or not, it must have, on a big curve, that's all I. But that was pretty strange.

AL: Did you know, were the Bertocci brothers still teaching at Bates when you were there?

SF: Yes, both of them.

MF: Yes, yeah, we had, I didn't major in English but I did take Western, no, what, Western Lit, that we all had to take?

SF: Western Civ.

MF: Western civilization, we all took that. I took that from him. And then I took one other course, which I don't remember. He was very, a stickler for, you know, good work, and he made people work very hard. Western Civ was a broad course.

SF: That was Peter, right?

MF: No, that -

SF: Or Angelo.

MF: That was Peter. Angelo was Philosophy. Did you have him?

SF: No.

MF: I had him for History of Philosophy, or Introduction to Philosophy, but didn't have much to do with either one of them. They were just peripheral, you know to all the, the courses we had to take, we took them.

AL: Sounds like you both had a lot of the same faculty and teachers that Ed Muskie had when he was there.

SF: Probably.

AL: I'm seeing a lot of similarities. There's one other professor's name, who was only there for not a long time, was there during Frank Coffin's years. I don't know if he was still there when you attended, his name was Paul Sweet.

MF: No.

AL: He was not there?

SF: No, I know the name but he wasn't there.

MF: I think he was one of the ones who went off into the service, because I think he was, probably wasn't one of the older ones. I did hear the name, I remember the name, but he wasn't there when we got there.

AL: Yeah. Okay.

SF: There's another little wartime anecdote about social life. I went into the service on Washington's birthday in 1945, after having completed my first semester of sophomore year.

MF: He started college at sixteen, which is why he was able to stay so long.

AL: Oh, okay.

SF: And I chose to go in the Navy instead of getting drafted into the Army. So I was sent to Great Lakes Naval Training Station for boot camp, which was, whatever it was, eight weeks I guess. And then you get a week's leave, boot leave, at the end of that before you get transferred to your next duty station. So I went home, and naturally I went to Bates to see my girlfriend. And the house, she was in Milliken House, her sophomore year, and there was a housemother in every house. The housemother in Milliken was Mrs. York, who was a grandmother type.

MF: She probably was about fifty-five years old (*unintelligible phrase*).

SF: Yes, and she was a real grandmother type. And I forget what the actual rule was, but men weren't allowed in the women's dormitories until two o'clock or three o'clock or something in the afternoon. Mrs. York saw me in my uniform and said, "Stanley, I think it's all right if you and Madeleine are in the reception room after lunch." So she changed the rules so we could be together in the reception room for one afternoon.

MF: But she knew you, from before, because I'd been in Milliken the year before, too. And she thought, well, he's not going to do much harm.

SF: The other thing, I guess I might as well speak about that, post war, immediate post war, was when they put up the temporary barracks that they moved from Brunswick, I guess, to the campus to create student housing, veterans, married students housing, and it was called Sampsonville because Professor Sampson, math professor, right?

AL: Yeah, Dick Sampson?

SF: Yeah, he was advisor to the vets.

MF: No, this was a different Sampson, not Jean's Sampson's husband.

AL: Oh, not Jean Sampson's, okay.

MF: An older Sampson, and much, I mean he passed away a long time ago.

SF: So they called the, there were three barracks, right, two on Bardwell Street and one over on Russell Street. And so, I don't know how many apartments there were there, but anyway it was cram jammed full of married veterans. I guess they were all men, I don't think any women veterans were there, and their wives and their children. So it was a nice family neighborhood. So I got discharged in July of '46, I was only in for seventeen months actually, so I came back, basically starting my junior year. She was starting her senior year, right? And so we had, she was in Rand and I was in Smith I guess by then, so we had our, that year together. But one of her debate mates was Ed Glanz who was a married vet and living in Sampsonville. So we became, through that connection, we became acquainted with Ed and his wife and some of their friends in the married group. So, then she graduated in '47 and I was still, had a year to go, I was a senior. So '47 to '48 she would come up on the train, she was working in Pepperill, Massachusetts, she would take the train up at least once a month, maybe more often -

MF: No, not that often really.

SF: No? Well, she came up or I went down anyhow. So she'd come up and the Glanz's had her as an apartment guest, not exactly a houseguest.

MF: Sleep on the couch.

SF: So we spent our senior year rendezvous in Sampsonville and participated with some of the married guys in some of their social life and (*unintelligible word*) and so forth.

MF: The Stewarts, and the Richters.

SF: And so then I graduated in June of '48 and went to work on a dairy farm in Suncook, New Hampshire -

MF: In Pembroke, New Hampshire.

SF: Pembroke, New Hampshire, long enough to get her to say yes. And in no more than a month's time we planned and carried out a wedding in the Bates chapel, using Sampsonville as our home base, because she changed there, and I changed there and they were our, Ed Glanz was one of our ushers and so forth and so on, just-.

AL: Oh wow, so Sampsonville has significance for you.

SF: Sampsonville has a lot of significance for us.

MF: Even though we weren't married, but we were on our way. It was all that "Marriage in the Family" course that he took that he was such an expert.

AL: Now, what logically is the next thing to talk about?

MF: What do you want to talk about? What do you need?

AL: What was your first, well, what was your first experience meeting Ed Muskie?

MF: Okay, I'll tell you mine. Nineteen fifty-four, we were now in Orono, Maine. Stan had finished up, Stan went on to Columbia Teacher's College to get a doctorate. After teaching one year of junior high school and high school, he decided that he didn't want to do that any more.

SF: Seventh graders drove me back to the safety of graduate school.

MF: Seventh graders drove me into quitting teaching and getting married.

AL: It's a bad age.

MF: So we, we had moved to Orono because he got a job at the University of Maine.

SF: In '52.

MF: In '52. And I was pregnant with our first child at that time, after having been in New York for three years while he was at Columbia. Or was it four years? Three years.

SF: Three.

MF: And got pregnant as soon as he got a job. And so Martha was born in '53. We lived in an apartment across the street from the town hall in Orono. And in 1954 the League of Women Voters was very active in Orono, and since I was not working, I had had a child, I was invited to join the League of Women Voters. Well, that fit right in with the kinds of things I was interested in, history and government, community activity. So I joined the League of Women Voters. Wasn't too active because I had a small child, but in 1954, in, I think in June probably, the League of Women Voters had a "Meet the Candidates" night at the town hall in Orono, and they invited all the candidates for all the offices. I mean, they invited the candidates for governor, candidates for county commissioners, and the representatives for the Orono area. And Ed Muskie came as a candidate, and I, he was very impressive, you know, just, I thought he was tremendously impressive, and I was a Democrat anyway and I would have voted for him no matter what. The woman I went with who lived in the apartment above us across from the town hall was a teacher in the home economics department, home physics, whatever that was. That was all about how to design space and -

SF: Make sure the bowl in your bathroom- lavatory was big enough to wash your hair in. She came into our house and tested it.

MF: Yeah, all these kinds of, I mean, it was home, you know, home economics from the practical, physical aspect. And whether your closets were wide enough so that you could really hang something without having it stick out.

AL: Spatial relations.

MF: And all that kind of stuff. So anyway, she lived up above us, and she was a Republican. And -

SF: Everybody was a Republican in those days, except Ed Muskie and you.

MF: Except, yeah. And so we had this wonderful group, I mean this was the days when people were really interested in local politics and everything, there was a huge group at the town hall. And when we went back across the street, I was with Myrna, and she said, "It's too bad he's not a Republican, it's too bad he's a Democrat, because if he were a Republican I'd vote for him." So that was her, you know, that was the first time, and we all went around and shook hands with him. I mean, that was meeting him in a very, very not close, you know, one-on-one sense. But I remember that, that he impressed everybody. And I'm sure that there were people who probably turned around and did end up voting for him, even though he was a Democrat, because otherwise, he wouldn't have won. And I don't know if Myrna was one of them, I never asked

her. But she, I think she really felt he should win, but it was hard for her to vote for him since she was a lifelong Republican.

AL: Well, there were pockets of support by Republicans for him throughout the state, and they were called Republicans for Muskie. And which, if you look at the statistics of the Republicans, the Democrats in the state of Maine that he would have had to closet, or otherwise who otherwise voted for Governor Muskie.

MF: When we came to Maine, we were told by the, we had voted before in New York state, and we had voted, we had signed up as independent because we didn't know the politics of New York state. So we didn't really know what we were when we came to Maine. So, the Dean of the College of Education, there was a primary coming up and he said, register as a Republican, because you have no impact on the election unless you do, because the Republicans always win. And in the primary, that's where your choice comes. And there was a conflict of two, somebody they were trying to get rid of as a senator, Brewster was it? Senator Brewster -

AL: Ralph Owen Brewster?

MF: Yeah, and there was somebody running against him.

SF: (*Unintelligible phrase*).

MF: I don't know who it was, in the primary. And the important thing was to get rid of someone and put someone else in. And if you didn't vote as a Republican then you'd have no, because it was, whoever the Republican was was going to win. That was the point, that was where you made your impact. So we were registered Republicans, even at that time. And I think it might have been the same year that Muskie was running, because it was either '52 or '54, but it must have been '54. And so we were registered Republicans, but I always voted Democrat as a registered Republican, once there were Democrats that I wanted to elect. And after a while just changed my registration to Democrat, but that was the reason in Maine, that's the way it was. You vote, you registered as a Republican, and if you did want to vote outside the ticket, you could. But the point was the primary was where the decisions were made, because that person was going to be elected to Congress or to be governor or whatever. Or even in your own area, your own representative, because there were so few. Except in the big cities like Lewiston and, Lewiston was Democratic, and there was Aroostook, Franco-Americans tended to be Democratic, so they would have a small population of representatives or senators. So that was my first meeting with Ed Muskie, and it was, I don't know, you didn't ever really meet him personally.

SF: Well, I'll tell my news, my piece -

MF: Yeah, I've got some others.

SF: Before he becomes a senator, and then you can take over, that's when you had your major contact with him. You know what Boys State and Girls State are, right?

AL: Yes.

SF: Well, Boy's State was on the university campus in those days. And I was one of the faculty members who worked on Boys State at the end of a spring semester each year. And, one year, the director of Boys State, who was a government professor, Gerry Grady, but that was long before your time. He was the director of Boys State that year, and probably several years. I don't know what year it was, but Muskie was still governor when Gerry Grady was running for Congress from the second district as a Democrat.

MF: The third district then, there were three districts. He was running against [Cliff] McIntire.

SF: Okay. And so I was working on the Boys State crew, which is a story in itself. But, I was also working with, I had by then become a card carrying Democratic, too, so I was working on the Gerry Grady campaign, and so was another mutual friend of ours, Dave Fink, he was a faculty member, a colleague of mine and also on the Boys State staff. Well the governor, Muskie, came up to I guess speak to Boys State, which was not all that unusual. And I, so this was either '56 or '58 -

MF: Probably '58.

SF: Probably '58, when Gerry was running for Congress. And I was present, this is a absolutely nothing story, I was present when Governor Muskie and Gerry Grady, in the athletic department office at the university, either before or after the governor had spoken to the kids, Dave Fink and I were present with Gerry Grady and the governor as they started talking strategy. And since Dave Fink and I were both on Gerry Grady's campaign committee, you know, we were kind of there. And Dave Fink nudges me and says, "I think maybe they'd like to be alone," or, "The governor would like to be alone with the candidate." So we left, and that's the end of my story.

MF: But he was, see, that's an example of his need, his desire and absolute need to nurture Democratic candidates because they were so few. Of course Gerry didn't win. This was when there were three districts in Maine, and McIntire won until, and he was congressman, and then he, I don't know, he, it was changed to a second dis-, we only had two districts -

SF: We lost the third district completely. That would have been as a result of the 1960 census.

MF: Census, so this was probably '58, I think it was the last election before we lost the district. So, but I told you about the League of Women Voters and my first knowledge of Ed Muskie as a politician was that particular incident that I just described. But I became increasingly involved in the League of Women Voters and, not at the time he was governor because I was still tied up pretty much with, I had another child and, you know, in 1955, and they were little, but I became involved with the Orono League of Women Voters. And then, I became president of the Orono League at some point in time, and then went on to state board in the 1960s, end of the '60s. Was on the state board of the League. And I was organization chairman and quite a few, I mean, voter's service chairman with women like Tom Allen's mother and, you know, these great ladies who never had worked and, because the women didn't work when they had family but they had

things, they had to do something to make life worthwhile and they were terrific, bright women with time to give to something like politics. These were not partisan politics, but it was a great learning experience, a tremendous education. They had a great education network around the state. And, so I was in, I was voter education, voter services was one of my portfolios.

Anyway, I ended up going to conferences of the League in different parts of the country. I went to Chicago, and national conferences, and I went, one time there was a conference in, there were two different times, I'm not sure these were the same times, I went to Washington for conferences. One time was after Kennedy, after Robert Kennedy was elected from New York, you know, there was still that Kennedy mystique going on, and the League had what they called a congressional breakfast reception, and you would invite your congressman and your senator to this breakfast and a reception. And there'd be signs, the state of Maine had a sign, and our congressman would stand around us and then people could come and talk to them and lobby them for different things. So we had Margaret Chase Smith then, and Ed Muskie, and Ky -

End of Side B, Tape One

Side A, Tape Two

AL: We are now on Tape Two of the interview with Madeleine and Stanley Freeman.

MF: So, we had, all of them came, and it was at the time of the Clean Waters Act, and some international issues that the League was very interested in. But the New York delegation was not very far from us, because it was arranged alphabetically, and we sort of judged the worth of our senators and congressmen by how many people stood in line to shake their hands. And, next to Robert Kennedy, we had the longest line, because they came, this was very much in the time of the clean waters, the whole thing, and the League was active both on the state level, you know, in trying to change the legislation related to clean waters in Maine, as well as on the federal level. And so there was a real, and other states were also working on clean, women, League of Women Voters, on clean waters and anti-pollution efforts in their own states, and Muskie was the champion of that whole effort at the federal level. So people came, and Margaret Chase Smith, of course, was a woman, and the fact she was a Republican didn't matter too much to the League of Women Voters because they were interested in women's activities and action. So we had this wonderful line of people, and our senator, and Hathaway was, I forget what he, he was sort of the special, he was doing some foreign relation, anyway, he also had been in Congress and had a pretty good role. Kyros was, he only was there one term. So, but we were very proud of our delegation. A small state with, you know, these prominent, very prominent senators and representatives.

And, then at another time I went to Washington, but this was a smaller group, I think it was between conventions, they would have an off year where only the leadership from the League would go, and there was another woman, Ann Riley and I were the delegates to this group. And we were to lobby our senators, and we visited Margaret Chase Smith, and the interesting thing about Margaret Chase Smith was that she, her office was, she always, she had a back office, in the back of her office, and the door was always open. I visited her twice, and a little bit, and I always wondered who was in there listening. And she did, I forget the name of the man who was very close to her?

AL: Oh, Lewis.

MF: Yes, Lewis, and everybody said that's where he was, and he would be able to, you know, know everything she knew so that he could work with her on, you know, working out the policy issues and so on. But she was more involved in international relations at that time.

But we went to visit Muskie, and it was at the time that he had just found out that his son had not been admitted to Bates, and not- this is his oldest son- and not been admitted to the University of Maine. In other words, he hadn't been admitted to any college. And he had gone to private school, and so we sat there, supposedly lobbying him, and here were these two women who were, I was then in my, probably I wasn't as old as Muskie but I was a mother of kids in high school probably, or, yeah, junior high and high school. And he told us everything about his son, his school history, how he wasn't a good student, how he, and he was very disappointed in him, he just didn't want to settle down to things. And so he was asking us, what would we do about something. And that was not what we were there for, and I didn't want to advise him, you know. And he was saying, and he really didn't even want so much feedback, he just seemed to need to talk to somebody about this disappointment that he had just had.

And we did end up talking, we only had so much time, we had, you know, a half hour with him, or whatever time it was, and we knew that and we wanted to get our word in edgewise. And we finally did, and I don't remember exactly what the issue was, that specific, that we were supposed to concentrate on, but we got very little chance to approach him, except he said, "I agree with you." You know, he'd been lobbied enough and they'd received enough information that there wasn't any point, I think, in us trying to convince him, because he was on our side. But he had this concern about his son, his oldest son, who later went to the University of Maine and became, did get to the University of Maine later. Became a, the one who became a photographer.

AL: Stephen.

MF: Stephen. And I think his father ended up being proud of him. But his father I think wanted him to have the training that he'd had, he probably wanted him to go and be a debater and all these other things, and his son just wasn't interested. And, so he was sort of saying, you know, "How did I go wrong?" was more or less what he was saying about himself. The other times that I got to see him was, you know, I was, I ended up on the town council in Orono after my League of Women Voters stint, because I figured I'd had enough of that, I was president of the League, the state League, and then thought it was time to put my action where my mouth was and I ran for the town council in Orono and I got elected. I was the first woman elected to the council.

AL: First woman ever.

MF: And, well they had called it selectmen up until that year, and there wasn't much of a chance for women working with selectmen. But anyway, I did get elected and I was, then when I got toward the end of my time on the council, I went on the board of the Maine Municipal

Association and I was president -

SF: Chairperson of that.

MF: I was president of the Maine Municipal Association. I was chair of the council-

SF: Yeah, but (*unintelligible phrase*) before you went to the Maine Municipal Association.

MF: And then I became president of the Maine Municipal Association, and then the National -

SF: First woman, she was the first woman in everything.

MF: The National League of Cities had their conferences in Washington, and I went twice and we did the same thing that the League did. We lobbied our senators, I mean they came, really they would be up to a morning thing where they came, and we talked to them. So I saw him there much later, quite a bit later, this was in the, it would have been in the seventies, at the end, through the seventies, in the end of the seventies I was on, involved until '79 and, during that period. And he was by then chair of the budget committee, I mean, you know, he had gone beyond just the Clean Air and Clean Water and pollution control, and he was really involved in the whole budget issue, with urban issues and, you know, rural issues beyond, and money for projects like Model Cities and, you know, all of that kind of stuff.

So, but he always was a very, everybody thought so positively of him, you know, that, even people that didn't completely agree with him, he could make that case, and Brooks Quimby had trained him well, I think, on any, you know, he could make the case. He was like, maybe like me, maybe that's one of the things Brooks Quimby taught us, we talk too much. We always said he talked too much, and he did go on, but it was always interesting. It wasn't you know, you never started yawning or got bored because he just took you with him on these tracks that he was so involved in.

Then I was a, I was on the board of trustees at Bates, as an alumni trustee, for five years while he was on the board of overseers, as well as the board of trustees. You know, there's, Bates has the two tier, there's a trustee -

AL: Yeah, it's a little confusing. I'm not sure of exactly how that works.

MF: Well, the board of overseers is more permanent. The board of trustees, you get elected for a term and then you, some people get reelected, but the alumni trustees don't, they stay for five years. And then, but then there are trustees from outside that also get elected, but they choose the best and put them on the board of overseers, which is a, well it used to be lifelong but now I think it's only until the age of seventy, then they get off. But Muskie was just about seventy at that time, because he got off the board of overseers the year he was seventy I think, at that time he got off. And he didn't come to meetings too often. He was, but he did come a few times.

And one of the times that I thought was an important time that he was there was when Bates was

trying to make a decision about sexual orientation in their statement, you know, their sexual orientation policy. And we had been debating that for a couple of meetings, and there were a lot, some people who didn't think it should be there in, among the trustees, they thought it would cause problems, liability issues, would have Bates sort of be identified as a, and that some people wouldn't apply to Bates because of that policy, that they, you know, it was still at that early stage of the sexual orientation, which is still going on but not at Bates. And there were some, a couple of them were lawyers who had some problems with it. But, Frank Coffin was also on the board of overseers, and the time when we actually had to vote, and Vincent McKusick was on, so the time when we actually had to vote, they all showed up. And as former legislators or judges and whatever, they ar-, Muskie not so much as Frank Coffin, argued for the policy, which, but they showed their support for the policy which I think made the difference really in the vote in a positive way for Bates to include that policy, you know, we will not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

SF: Wasn't Frank Coffin part of that?

MF: Yes, he was there. Peter Gomes was there, too; he was on the board at that time. So, that was another instance where I think he might have made a difference just by his presence. He was the argu-, the one who argued the case so much as, Frank Coffin sort of argued it from a judge's point of view, Peter Gomes from sort of an ethical point of view. They were, you know, interesting arguments going on there on that.

Now where do we go from there. There's one more, and that was, I went to work, after I got my master's, and then I ended up getting a master's degree late in life in adult education, I got it from between the age of forty-nine and fifty-four, and I went to work for the Agency on Aging, the Eastern Agency on Aging. And, when Muskie retired, he still had a job to do he felt I guess, or someone persuaded him, which was access to justice, that whole concept. And to take the lead in finding out where Maine stood in terms of providing access to justice for people of, who didn't have the means to purchase it for themselves, purchase the advocacy that brought about a just resolution to issues and to cases. So, he became the chair of that, I don't really recall exactly, but it was Access to Justice, a study that was done, and I was then involved with the Eastern Agency on Aging. That was in the late eighties I guess. And I also, the Legal Services for the Elderly is sort of part of that whole system of the agencies that deal with older adults. And, -

AL: Can I ask one question? Is that, is this connected to the commission that Muskie served on to, on the legal needs -

MF: Of the elderly, that's what it was called.

AL: - of the elderly and the poor?

MF: Yes, that was what it was called, you've got the right name for it. Yeah, that was it, he was head of that commission. Well, I testified at the hearing in Bangor for the legal needs of the elderly, and that was, I saw him there, and didn't really have any interaction with him, but he was there. And then I joined, after I retired in 1991 from the Eastern Agency on Aging at sixty-five, I went on the board of Legal Services for the Elderly because I thought, I was interested in

justice and I thought that was a place where I could make a contribution. So he came to visit Legal Services for the Elderly after he had, just to see how we were doing, and we invited him to lunch and stuff. And that was the last time I saw him. He was getting frail at that point, and that would have been probably in, when did he die?

AL: Ninety-six.

MF: I would guess that probably was in '93 or '94, right in there. And we were trying at that time to persuade him to, not just us but Pine Tree Legal, were trying to persuade him to do what actually happened, the Muskie Dinner, which, to help raise funds because we weren't really making that much progress in implementing the recommendations that he had made, that had been made under the commission. And we wanted to recognize his work, and also help him, his name, help us achieve the goals that he had established. So, we talked with him about that, and it was the next year that he agreed that he would do it, and we had the first Muskie Dinner and he had just passed away before the dinner was actually held. Yeah. So that's my story on Muskie.

AL: Now, you know Don Nicoll somewhat?

MF: Yes. Now, Stan really knows him.

AL: How do you, what's your connection with Don?

SF: Well, while she was working in a volunteer capacity on the legal brothers side, I was doing similar kind of work on the health side. Because, I was vice chancellor of the University of Maine system, and one of my major assignments from the chancellor was to create a plan for a medical school at the University of Maine, this was in the period '72 to '75, which I did. And during that period I had a lot of contact with the hospitals because our medical school plan was to use the community hospitals for our clinical sites, so we wouldn't build a hospital. So I was at Eastern Maine Medical Center and Maine Medical Center and the other hospitals many times. And Don Nicoll was the assistant to the president of Maine Medical Center at that time, so that's how I connected with Don.

AL: Now I know what he did when he left Senator Muskie's office. Okay, so you've been -

SF: So we've bumped into Don at Muskie events, not medical events, since then.

MF: Muskie Dinner, we sat with him a couple of years ago, and this last year we talked to him there, this last year. But, this is just the final frosting on the cake, is that as a result of my work with Legal Services for the Elderly and the Muskie Commission, and the goals that were still unmet, the chief justice of the, current chief justice, and Judge Coffin, and Justice [Howard] Dana and some others created the Justice Action Group, the JAG, which Frank Coffin was chair of, and now is no longer chair of. But, and because I was then chair of the board of Legal Services for the Elderly, I worked on that board, on that Justice Action Group for about three years and, with Frank Coffin and some of these others, to try to find more resources and work with the communities, and the legal community, in particular which, with these guys, Frank Coffin and Dana and [Daniel] Wathen, they were putting a lot of pressure on the legal

community to provide funding to enhance the opportunity, and on the legislature, to find more funds to work for legal services for the poor, and the elderly are part of that total because so many of them are poor and so many of them don't have access to justice, and so many of them are being, like so much of society, they're being taken advantage of. And so that was fun to be sort of reminiscing with Frank. And I got off that, oh, in two, sometime in 2000, or at the end of, the beginning of 2000 I guess, and Frank now no longer is on that JAG.

SF: He isn't?

MF: No, oh, who has taken his place, who's the one that Martha was -?

SF: Kermit.

MF: Kermit Lipez.

AL: Kermit Lipez, okay.

MF: Is the chair of that group now.

AL: Hopefully we'll be interviewing him soon, we can ask him about that.

MF: Okay, ask him about the Justice Action Group and its connection to Muskie. Because it is an attempt to continue to do the work that Ed Muskie started on that, and to bring the legal community particularly together, and the legislature, to focus on those people who do not have access to justice because they don't have the means. And to change the court system to some degree, too, to make it more accessible. Not just the financial aspect of getting a lawyer, but also to make the court system not so -

AL: It's like a maze, trying to get -

MF: Well, a maze and also threatening, I think, to people who don't have someone to guide them through it and they shy away from it.

AL: The state of Maine is actually getting some great Web sites up that help you get to what you need without having to call a whole bunch of people, who tell you you've got the wrong number, you know.

MF: That's part of the work of that that has been promoted through this. And the Coffin Fellows, you know, that, they created a fellowship for young lawyers to work on domestic cases and -

AL: Pro bono?

MF: And Maine does quite well on pro bono.

AL: Tell me about Whit McAvoy.

MF: Oh, Whit. Whit McAvoy was a real activist in the League of Women Voters, before me.

SF: Her husband was a physician and medical director at Eastern Maine Medical Center.

MF: Physician. And they were very s-

SF: He was one of the partners that I had in planning the medical school.

MF: And his work, he was a -

SF: Always interlocking stuff.

MF: He was a, what do you call a chest surgeon?

SF: Thoracic surgery.

MF: Thoracic surgery.

SF: He smoked like a chimney.

MF: Yeah, well he did. And he also did a lot of work with cancer patients as a result, because a lot of it was lung issues. And so, but they were very active Demo-, they were strong Democrats, he was, and she was also, although she kind of camouflaged that somewhat with the League of Women Voters where you had to be nonpartisan. But she [Whit McAvoy] was a true environmentalist, and she was the chair of the environmental, the environmental chair with the Maine League of Women Voters for a long time, worked very closely with Ed Muskie on a lot of issues and wrote a lot of letters, and lobbied, and spoke at hearings, and so on. And she was president of the League just before I was. I was vice president under her. She lived in Bangor and we worked closely together, and we weren't interested in the same issues. The environment was not my issues, but she was, that's where she put a lot of her time and energy. She later went on the Land Use Regulation Commission, she was a member of the Land Use Regulation Commission, I think for a while, which was a good place for her after she got off the League of Women Voters, and she would have had a lot of stories to tell you about Ed Muskie because she was a lot closer to him in that kind of active work than I ever was, mine was very peripheral and more generalized. She of course, now she has Alzheimer's, and somebody should have gotten her story, she was terrific, a terrific worker.

AL: Do you recall any stories she may have told you about Senator Muskie that stuck in your mind?

MF: I really don't, simply because, no, not-

AL: No. Who, is there someone in her family that you know, or someone close to her that we might be able to get some of her recollections from?

SF: Mabel Wadsworth.

AL: Mabel Wadsworth?

SF: She's a friend, but she's a contemporary, you know.

MF: She also, yeah, and she was on the state board.

SF: And very sharp.

MF: She's, well, I think she still is. And she was a strong Democrat, and I -

SF: And her husband was a physician.

MF: Her husband was a physician, too, and a close friend. She might have some stories about, of her own about Ed Muskie.

AF: Yeah, I'm sure.

MF: And she might know, have some, Whit was a very serious person and not, didn't, I would say probably didn't capitalize on storytelling. She was very involved in the intellectual aspect of. Ed Muskie was, when Maine was involved in its own legal, I think the, what year, 19-, the legislative session around 19-, 19-, 103rd Legislature I think was the one, I don't know what those years were, was the environmental legislature in Maine where a lot of Maine's laws were passed. And Ed was very helpful, and he would come to Maine and really work with the people who were trying to do the same thing for Maine that he was trying to do at the federal level. And I think he even came and testified at some hearings where we were trying to implement regulations, work closely with the legislature. And she would have been involved in that.

AL: Does the name Madelin Kiah ring a bell?

SF: Yup.

MF: Is she still living? I think she may have passed away.

SF: Richard Kiah.

MF: Yeah, she was a, she was chair, the Kiahs were chair of the Bangor Democratic Committee for a long time, I think they were -

SF: When Gerry Grady was running for Congress, Kiah was, I think he was the agent for Northeast Airlines.

MF: Yeah, I think you're right.

SF: And chairman of the town committee, or the county committee or something.

MF: Or the Brewer, county committee probably, because they, I'm not sure if they lived in Bangor or Brewer, I don't really remember.

SF: And at that time of the Grady campaign, after the Muskie piece, I was asked to deliver something to the airport because Northeast Airlines would fly stuff free, since Richard Kiah was the agent. I think it was probably up to Presque Isle from Bangor. And I was asked to drive it from the campaign headquarters out to the airport, and it was kind of a rush job, in a car with a big Grady for Congress sign on it, and I got stopped going through the school -

AL: Oh, a school zone?

SF: Zone, for going too fast, and I didn't think that was too good for the campaign. So that's my Kiah story. Mabel Wadsworth isn't in the telephone book, but there's an M.A. Sine, S-I-N-E, under Wadsworth. That must be her.

MF: That was her maiden name.

SF: Okay, so her telephone number is 947-1090, and the address is 145 Elmer Street, Bangor.

MF: Well, if that isn't her it might be her daughter who may live with her.

SF: Well, I think M.A. would be Mabel.

MF: I don't know.

AL: Are there any other people who were involved in Democratic politics in the Bangor area or somewhere in Maine that come to mind that we might contact?

MF: Who lived at that time, who (*unintelligible phrase*) with Muskie?

AL: Who are still living? Yeah.

MF: Of course there's a whole, the Baldaccis. That was, they were the, you know, the big politicians for him.

SF: Well, Herb Bass. Doesn't live in Maine now, but he's here for the summer. He was a Mr. Democrat.

AL: Herb Bass?

SF: Yeah, he was a history professor at the University of Maine at that time.

MF: I have his phone number somewhere.

SF: And he's in, they have a summer place in Trenton. They live in Philadelphia now.

MF: He left the University of Maine to go work at Temple University.

SF: Temple. But he was very much involved with that whole group of young perks that were promoting the Democratic party during the Muskie -

MF: He wasn't there in 1954, when Muskie ran for governor.

SF: No, but he was there when he was in the Senate.

MF: Yes. But he left, he wasn't there terribly long, but he might have had some contact. Now, you've talked to the people at the Muskie Institute. Our son-in-law is Dick Barringer. Have you talked with Dick?

AL: Yeah. We have not. We've done some research, but we haven't got to the sending an invitation stage. Is he someone who -

SF: You can interview him at this table.

AL: What's that?

SF: You can interview him at this table, he's our son-in-law.

AL: Okay, and Martha as well, as your daughter, she's important to talk to I think as well.

MF: But she didn't, I don't think she had much to do with Muskie, I don't think. Because that was, she graduated from law school in 1981, Muskie was -

SF: Well I don't know, when she was working in the legislature she might have had some contact with him.

MF: But Dick came to work with, he came to Maine to work for Senator Curtis.

SF: Governor Curtis.

MF: I mean Governor Curtis, I'm sorry, at the time right after, oh, I don't know when, it was end of '70 sometime I think, and he worked a lot on environmental issues for Governor Curtis, he had, Governor Curtis had three or four fellows -

SF: Oh, it must have been before '74, when Longley got elected, Curtis was ending his term.

MF: Yeah, so it was in the early '70s that Dick came. And -

SF: Well, Dick and I can tell you stories about Governor Longley, but you (*unintelligible phrase*).

MF: But you don't want to hear those.

AL: Oh, those are important, too.

MF: No. That had nothing to do with Muskie.

AL: Well, part of it is getting, understanding what's going on in Maine government while Muskie was a Senator, so we have tried to cover Curtis' years, and Brennan's years, and Longley.

MF: Well, if you want to cover, of course, and Dick was also, he was Director of the-

SF: Public Lands.

MF: Public Lands and then -

SF: Conservation Commissioner.

MF: And then he was Conservation Commissioner, then he was director of planning for the state of Maine. And he worked under Curtis, Longley, and Brennan, all three.

AL: Wow, he can give us a perspective on the different styles, too.

MF: And he's very interesting. And he's also been involved, you know, with the Muskie Institute and so his take on Senator Muskie, and he's still involved now, he's a research professor at the Muskie Institute, and he's particularly involved in sustainable-

AL: Sustainable communities.

SF: Sustainable communities, agriculture -

MF: Sustainable agriculture, sustainable -

SF: Oceans, things.

MF: Sustainable things, and he has an EPA grant on that topic that he's, so anyway.

AL: That's interesting. You think he'd be willing?

MF: Oh, Dick would be willing, he'd love to.

SF: He loves to talk.

MF: I mean, just call him and ask him if he would be interested in, because what you're doing. And you might send him a letter. He knows Don Nicoll, Don Nicoll has worked with the Muskie Institute.

AL: And tell him to meet me here?

SF: Yeah.

MF: On a sunny day. They're coming this weekend, you know. They're here a lot, they spend a lot of time here.

AL: In closing, is there anything else you'd like to add that I haven't covered that you feel is important?

MF: About Muskie?

AL: About anything, the time period, Muskie. Has your daughter been in the legislature, or has -

MF: No, she's worked for the legislature, she was director of the office of policy and legal analysis. She worked about ten years out of law school.

SF: It's the non-partisan staff.

MF: You know, the non-partisan staff of the legislature. And I don't think she worked on the environment, she worked on, she worked with the judiciary committee mostly, and the state.

SF: Family law.

MF: Yeah, stuff like that.

SF: (*Unintelligible phrase*).

MF: But now she, then she went on and got a master's degree in counseling from University of Southern Maine, and she's sort of freelancing now, does a variety of things. She does some counseling, and also some contract work with different people. She isn't full time occupied, you know, in a job. She wanted to do something more. She also wants to write.

AL: She has your love of writing?

MF: Well, she has, maybe her -

SF: Her grandmother was the letter writer.

AL: (*Unintelligible phrase*).

MF: Yeah, she did edit the book of the Rachel Carson letters. You know it?

AL: Oh, okay. We have a copy at the Archives, but I have not dug into all that yet.

SF: She's the editor.

MF: She edited, she edited the letters and they published.

AL: Wonderful.

MF: And it was her grandmother who sort of put her on to it before she passed away, and Martha felt she had to do it. And she did it while she was working full time, and that was a lot of work because it's a big book. We have a copy of it. And that's another part of. I think, I don't know if we have today the heroes that we had, I mean, you know, Muskie was a hero for all time, I think. I can't think of, the issues were probably more clear-cut, and people stayed with them longer. You didn't have all of this, even though there were people who were not environmentalists, who were opposed to the issue that Muskie was proposing and others, which-partisan politics were different. There was a, I just sensed that there was a respect that doesn't exist today.

AL: It always sometimes feels like there's no right way to do something. That whichever way you decide, there's going to be this whole group that -

MF: I think-

SF: And it's all splintered into many groups.

AL: So many small factions for specific -

SF: So you can't get a consensus of a majority even for something.

MF: It's also become so centrist that everybody dilutes everything to get to the center, no matter whether they're a Democrat or a Republican. And so you have the same dilution that occurs, and the great issues seem to lose their constituencies very easily now. It's maybe a different way of doing the people's business, but when you had somebody who was really stuck with the issue and get people gathered for the, much pushing the envelope a lot farther than we seem to be able to do today. It took a long time but, you know, it didn't have to keep eroding the concepts as much, it seems to me, as we do today. But maybe it's just me that sees it that way.

AL: Well, I just want to mention this book before I end the interview so we have it on tape. It's called Always Rachel, edited by your daughter, Martha Freeman. And it's the letters of Rachel Carson and Dorothy Freeman, 1952 to 1964, "An Intimate Portrait of a Remarkable Friendship." Thank you both.

(Break in taping. Interview continued.)

AL: I'd like Stanley to talk just briefly about the significance of where we held the interview today.

SF: Well, we're sitting on the edge of Sheepscot Bay, looking out into a fog bank right now,

but it's a gorgeous day with the view of Georgetown Island a mile across the bay, when you can see it. And Rachel Carson's cottage was half a mile south on this same shore, so my mother and Rachel became acquainted because Rachel built her cottage nearby, and that's the beginning of their story, and many of the letters have to do with what was happening at these locations because they wrote to each other, if they weren't here together, they wrote to each other every day reporting on what was happening on Sheepscot Bay shores.

AL: And this cottage and land have been in your family since -

SF: Since 1887.

AL: Great.

SF: And Rachel's was built in 1952 or '3.

AL: Thank you.

End of Interview

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